



International conference

# ***Platonic Love in Contemporary Thought***

25-26 September 2025

Würzburg

Organized by

Antonio Cimino, Diego D'Angelo and Jörn Müller

The conference is made possible through the generous financial aid of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

Attendance is free, but registration is required. If you want to attend the conference, please register before 15 September by sending an email to: [diego.dangelo@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:diego.dangelo@uni-wuerzburg.de).

**25 September 2025 – Würzburg, Residenz, Third Floor, R 3.38**

9:30-9:45     Opening

**Section 1: Platonic Love and Embodiment**

9:45-10:30     Elena Romagnoli (University of Pisa, Italy):  
*The Infinite Possibilities of the Finite: Gadamer on Platonic Love*

10:30-10:45     Coffee break

10:45-11:30     Jorge Ernesto Arjona Quintero (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic):  
*The Male Embodiment of Desire in Plato's Phaedrus.*

11:30-12:15     Hélder Telo (University of Beira Interior, Portugal):  
*Platonic Love, Asceticism, and Spirituality in Hadot and Foucault*

12:30-14:15     Lunch break: Theaterkantine Café Mozart

**Section 2: The Metaphysical Meaning of Platonic Love**

14:30-15:15     Paulo Lima (NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal):  
*Can We Speak of a Dionysian Eros? Another Facet of Nietzsche's Reversal of Platonism*

15:15-16:00     Marion Pollaert (Centre Jean Pépin, CNRS, UMR 8230, France):  
*Transcendence and Negation: Levinas, Derrida and Maldiney Reading Plato*

16:00-16:15     Coffee break

16:15-17:00     Maria Schwartz and Samira Elyasi (University of Wuppertal, Germany):  
*Concepts of Love in Plato and Simone Weil's Christian Platonism*

17:00-17:45     Diego D'Angelo (University of Würzburg, Germany)  
*Love and Attention in Iris Murdoch's Moral Philosophy*

Conference dinner: Restaurant Backöfle

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**Section III: Universality and Particularity in Platonic Love**

9:45-10:30 Abida Malik (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria)  
*Can't We Have it All? An Analysis of Martha Nussbaum's Interpretation of the Symposium*

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-11:30 Anna Pavani (University of Cologne, Germany)  
*A Reduction of Platonic Love?*

**Section IV: Feminist Interpretations of Platonic Love**

11:30-12:15 Kristin Sampson (University of Bergen, Norway):  
*Contemporary Conceptions of Eros in Plato's Symposium*

12:30-14:15 Lunch break: Theaterkantine Café Mozart

14:30-15:15 Antonio Cimino (Radboud University, the Netherlands):  
*Platonic Love and Italian Feminist Thought*

15:15-16:00 Oda Tvedt (NTNU Trondheim, Norway):  
*Plato and Feminist Reception: Appropriating Birth*

16:00-17:00 Break with tour of the Residence's Garden

**Section V: Homosexual Dimensions of Platonic Love**

17:00-17:45 Jörn Müller (University of Würzburg, Germany):  
*Eros on the Lido: Platonic Echoes in Thomas Mann's Death in Venice*

17:45-18:00 Coffee break

18:00-18:30 Closing words and discussion of future initiatives

Conference dinner: Vietnamese Restaurant Qe Tal